



# EAGLE FORUM

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**EDUCATION CENTER:** 7800 Bonhomme Avenue ♦ Saint Louis, Missouri ♦ 63105 ♦ (314)721-1213 ♦ Fax: (314)-721-3373  
**CAPITOL HILL OFFICE:** 316 Pennsylvania Avenue SE ♦ Washington, D.C ♦ 20003 ♦ (202)544-0353 ♦ Fax: (202)547-6996  
**OPERATIONS CENTER:** P.O. Box 618 ♦ Alton, Illinois ♦ 62002 ♦ (618)462-5415 ♦ Fax: (618)462-8909 ♦ [eagle@eagleforum.org](mailto:eagle@eagleforum.org)

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January 27, 2015

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Roberts,

On behalf of Eagle Forum and the thousands of families we represent, I express my support for the Learning Opportunities Created At the Local (LOCAL) Level Act. This measure is among Eagle Forum's top legislative priorities this year, as it would roll back federal intrusion into educational decision-making that is best done at the state and local level.

Quality education ultimately hinges on the involvement of parents, teachers, and communities; they are the most committed and best positioned to determine the most effective path to learning. Unfortunately, over the decades, Washington has shifted control from the local level to the hands of faceless, unelected bureaucrats.

Power over education has been centralized, but to what end? According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, reading and math scores have barely budged for high-schoolers since the 1970s. The federal government has imposed edicts and spent billions to little purpose beyond expanding its own power.

Your legislation is a refreshing reminder that the Secretary of Education does not have the final say over what and how we teach our children. The language targets the federal incentives and mandates that manipulate states into making Washington's education policies their own. It is a thorough bill that takes away the tools—such as waivers, grants, mandates, and interstate testing compacts—that have been shamelessly abused by the Education Department. States and localities would, as a consequence, be freer to develop their own quality standards and testing.

We hope Congress will embrace this bill as it considers reauthorizing No Child Left Behind through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. While states must ultimately decide whether to keep or drop national standards and testing, this legislation reasserts the valuable principle that local control over education best serves our children, communities, and country. Eagle Forum applauds your leadership on this issue and is eager to assist you in advancing the LOCAL Level Act.

Faithfully,

Founder and President  
Eagle Forum

CC: The Honorable Lamar Alexander